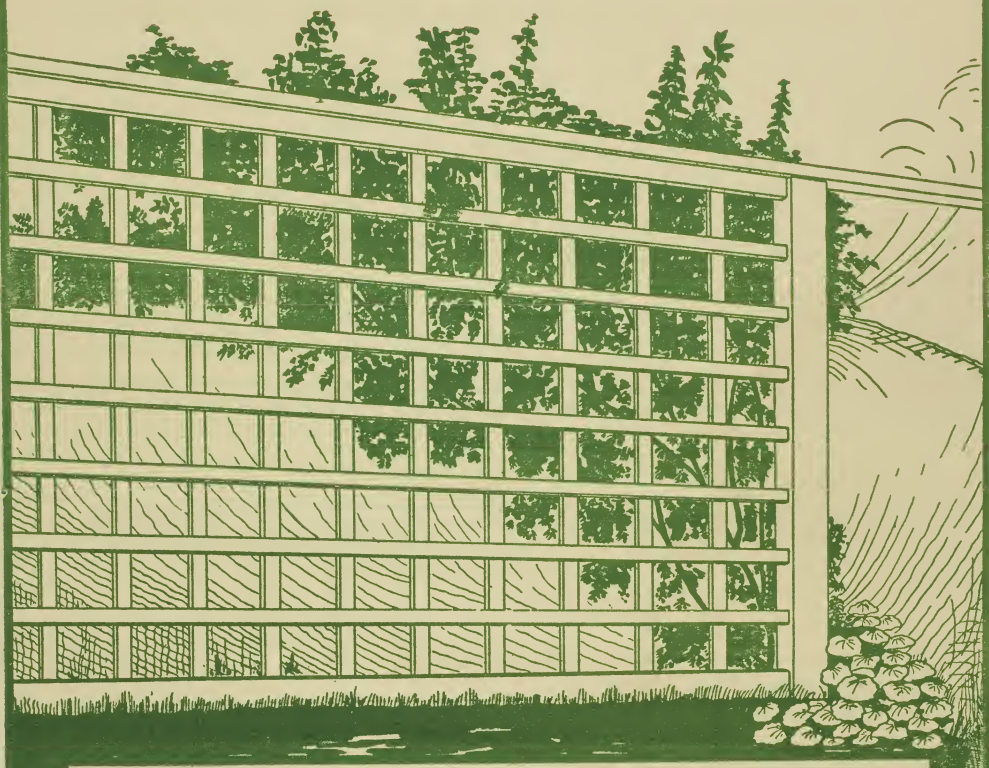
# California Garden



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DEC. 1923

TEN CENTS

# Lily Bulbs and Gladioli

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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association*
*One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

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## NATURE SPOILERS

By Virginia Ballen.

If the Yosemite or the Grand Canyon were cut up into small acreages and sold to individual grantees the ordinary landholder would at once begin improvements. Brush would be cleared out, trees would be cut down, weeds would be burned, swamps would be filled in and rivers changed and polluted. And this without the excuse of agricultural necessity, but merely to jibe with the other impertinences of a country estate. Feather-duster palms would soon adorn the top of El Capitan, eucalyptus trees would of course be planted along Bright Angel trail, and the spineless cactus border the banks of the Merced. I use these trees and plants figuratively. They would not survive at the named stations, to prove the refined taste of civilized man, but other atrocities better suited to the climate would.

And if Palm Canyon, that loveliest oasis in a light-painted desert, passed out of its present holding into the tampering hands of the ordinary land owner, who can doubt but that some kind of an Australian blue gum, or Kamchatkan pines would not be planted speedily, to push aside the leaning trunk-thatched fan palms and dispute their picturesque and native right to the water-holes.

The hand of man is an itching, destructive thing. The brain of man exercises itself upon the fair earth, as the brain of a child wrecks havoc upon its toys. Nothing must stand as it stood before the advent of man's possession. The exquisite composition of the ages is torn apart so that he may crow over his balanced blocks, over the fences proclaiming his own crude arrangements.

He crosses the seas with a seed in his pocket to poke down into some utterly useless and wholly uncalled-for setting—so his children can say: "My father planted this apple tree." It matters not to him that mango and bread-fruit trees put the sickly apple to shame. The land has known his touch; he has put his mark upon it. No, the flourishing of a continental jungle is as naught compared to that one spindling tree which his hand has graced.

Because a twig pushed into the ground will grow, man feels himself potent to give life to, or take the life of, vegetation. He feels he has the right of God to uproot, to blast and to set his own little sticks sprouting. He believes he feels like God when the new things root and bud—but he plays the very devil with the landscape.

What the beauty spoiler would do in the Yosemite he is doing, unchecked as yet, all over California. Everywhere he is destroying smaller though not less wonderful Grand Canyons and messing over as perfectly finished, if humbler, Yosemites

He is changing the distinctive aspect of our hills and dales into a hodge-podge exhibition of his own ignorance and conceit.

He burns off the coppiced chaparal—a rich and marvelous garden in itself, protecting rare lilies and loveliest flowers—"the little forests" creeping over the foothills, crouching knee to knee, leaning shoulder to shoulder, dwarfed, wine-brown bodies, bough laced about bough, twisted, old, unique and world noted, if the landscape meddler but knew it.

We have all seen how he tries to cover the scarred earth. What doesn't he plant on the bare knolls—rag-tags and bob-ends from other forests. Some dwarf trees very like the pink-belled manzanita he has uprooted, or the shreddy barked, feathery flowered chamiso, but forlornly twining their arms about the empty air.

The sins of the man who thinks he can improve upon the Master hand of the universe would fill a book.

Faintly, very faintly, I hear the united voice of protest—always beginning on that low, peculiar note—unhurried, because it is going to grow. No sputterings or rantings—slowly increasing in strength—the mighty voice of reconstructive public opinion.

After all the landscape meddler is a good sort—not for one moment is he aware of his paltry egotism. When the import of that voice reaches him he will be as zealous and as reverently endeavor to bring back and to preserve the natural beauty of California.

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### THE JUMPING MAN

A walking-stick of sober mien
Played leap-frog with a jumping-Bean.
The Bean said as he leaped right quick
"Are you an insect, walking-stick?"
The walking-stick took the Bean on high
"I surely am," was his reply,
"But I'll be darned if I am able
To tell you from a vegetable."
The Bean bent for a flying jump,
"I'm both of them at once, you chump.
I was not born to jump and run,
But am an insect in the sun."
"My jumping's due to ambition keen,
For who would always be a Bean?"
SIR LUCUS.
—In Chicago Evening Post.

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### SALIENT FEATURES OF NEXT MONTH'S WEATHER

By Dean Blake, Meteorologist, Weather Bureau.

Without any question or doubt, January is the coldest month in the year at San Diego, both in the frequency of low temperature and in the daily mean temperature. The most critical period for frost is between December 20 and January 20, and the chances of a freeze in the more exposed places within the city and also in the citrus districts in the county are at a maximum. The memorable California freeze in 1913, when the record minimum of 25 degrees was established for San Diego, occurred within this period, i. e., on January 7th.

It also embraces the rainiest period; the liability of rainy days being greatest at this time. It is extremely rare that we do not have some rain within these dates, and the storms are very liable to be accompanied by high winds which sometimes reach a force great enough to blow down trees and vines and uproot plants and shrubs.

However, as these storms do not usually last more than a day or two at a time, a large percentage of sunshine can be expected, and with an average maximum temperature of 62 degrees, many days of comfort and mildness can be counted upon. There are few hours during the day or night that the temperature is so low that plant growth is stopped, and those flowers and vegetables that thrive best on cooler weather make excellent progress.

### THE GRAY GOOSE SAYS

Hurrah! we have found a reason for the trimmings of the long leafed palm while they await their funeral pyre. Cut off the spiky ends and use the frond to shade tiny seedlings and small transplanted things, or to hover the hatching lawn. We thought this was our own original, unique discovery, when lo! all the neighbors were doing it. Just another proof that great minds scamper down the same lane.

When you come up our street and see the landscape thatched with leaves, do not bristle with criticism and interrogation points. Those are only "Palms of Victory" over the rays of a too ardent sun.

If you find a seed bunch of the palm with a long, straight stem, knock the seeds off, wind a string around the bushy end, and hang it up to dry straight. Then you will have a very good brown for sweeping leaves off the grass.

There is an Ipomea, a vine with purple flowers and five parted leaves, we often see covering fences and sheds. When its branches are a little larger than baling wire they are strong, retain flexibility for some time, and can be used to tie small plants to stakes.

# PLANTING ROSES

As the time for the planting of Roses is now very near, there is no time better suited for a talk about varieties of Roses and the way to plant them.

As to varieties, I am not supposing for a moment that readers of these notes are bitten by the "exhibition bug," and therefore any selection I may suggest will not be such a selection as an exhibitor would be likely to make. For it is notorious that the worst place at which a selection can be made for ordinary purposes is the exhibition table. I have not gone through the list, but I venture to think that if we took the gold medal Roses of the last 10 years and filled our gardens with them we should meet with disappointment, notwithstanding that they may indisputably be the "best" varieties. Best for what? As Hamlet says: "There's the rub." Some grow Roses for show, and would rule out nearly all the most enchanting varieties there are. Some grow for "massed" effect, for individual effect, which throws open the door to all that are excellent; some grow for early effect, some for mid-season, some for late. I, however, have to discuss Roses for general effect, and this, I think, will better fit in with the requirements of most ABC readers. So, it is not incumbent upon me to inflict a dry disquisition on you as to the respective classes of Roses, of which there are so many as to often confuse those who have been growing Roses for many years. Yet as I set about the task I feel that to select a few of the most serviceable from hundreds which are all useful, to choose a dozen or so of really beautiful kinds from some thousand and a half of beauties, is a most invidious task, and I should shrink from calling any dozen the best. Still, I am bold enough to say that for general use and real beauty the following dozen may be equalled, but not excelled. The selection is, of course, made with due regard to variety in color:—

1, General McArthur H.T.), crimson, continuous bloomer; 2, George Dickson (H.T.), velvety crimson, strong grower; 3, Frau Karl Druschki (H.P.), pure white, the most perfect among white Roses; 4, Mrs. H. Stevens (T.), paper-white, with long, pointed buds; 5, Golden Emblem (H.T.), golden-yellow, large, perfect in bud; 6. Lady Hillingdon (T.), deep appricot-yellow, and established favorite 7, Los Angeles (H.T.), pink and coral, gold shaded, frangrant 8, Ophelia (H.T.), salmon flesh, yellow at base of petals; 9, Mrs. H. Morse (H.T.), creamy-flesh, with darker shades; 10, Caroline Testout (H.T.), pink, good form and remarkably good doer; 11, Mme. Ed. Herriot, brick-red and terra-cotta; 12, Independence Day (H.T.), orange, shot with flame color.

To prevent any mistakes let me hasten to add that these are not arranged in order of merit, but to color. For example, George Dickson may be thought by many experts to be better than General McArthur, and so it may be in some respects. The one could never be mistaken for the other.

It may seem remarkable that eight out of these 12 are Hybrid Teas, a class which, in my young days, was not recognized because almost unknown, La France, Captain Christy and Cheshunt Hybrid being the only examples as far as I can remember. This was in the early '70s. What is more remarkable still is that I have selected only one Hybrid Perpetual, a class which used to be the only one excepting Teas, of which I have selected only two. The other remaining one is an Austrian Brier, the famous Mme. Ed. Herriot.

There is a very beautiful class which is making great headway and ought to find its place in every garden, and that is the bush-growing single Roses. They started with a very high standard and are maintaining it well, both with regard to beauty and color and also in continuity of bloom. To those who do not know them they are a revelation, and I think I should not be just either to you or my subject if I passed these over. They are the most beautiful of all the Roses, and I am offering you a selection of those I know to be good:—

Isobel, carmine-salmon; Irish Fireflame, reddish-orange; Irish Elegance, coppery-salmon; Mrs. Oakley Fisher, apricot-yellow; Simplicity, white, large; K. of K., intense scarlet.

**Preparation of the Soil.** The preparation of the soil is a matter of the greatest importance and more than half the ills our Roses are subject to arises from deficiencies in this respect. We cannot all have ideal Rose soil, which is a mixture of fat meadow loam and cow-manure, but we can all do something to bring it a little nearer to that character. Light brashy soils might be given an admixture of clay; heavy clays might be modified by the addition of leaf and burnt garden refuse, but while this applies in varying degrees to different kinds of soil, one condition applies to all, and that is, it must be dug deeply and thoroughly pulverised. If all our Roses were planted in soil broken up and enriched to the depth of 2 feet, mildew, that bane to Roses, would be almost unknown in the open air. I have more than once, in these notes, insisted on this point at some length, and I will not labor it now, except to again point out that it is of supreme importance, and that no matter how careful you are to select the best possible plants and varieties, if your soil is radically wrong you will get little but vexation out of them. The

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best week in the whole year in which to plant is the first week in November, so that there is ample time for those who intend to plant to make due preparation. Commence by throwing the soil up roughly, leaving every atom of it exposed to the air for a week or more. Not till within a few days of planting should the manure be mixed in and the whole leveled. Throwing the top soil to one side, the bottom soil to another, and put them back, with manure intermixed, into their original respective positions. One caution, do not touch it while it is wet. Under no circumstances should it be worked unless it is dry enough not to cling when squeezed. If for any reason I had to plant when the soil was wet I should lay the panlts in until the soil was dry. Then as to the

**Planting.** It is as wrong to plant too shallow as it is to plant too deep. Too deep the roots are smothered, removed from the aerial influences they need, while at too slight a depth they do not secure anchorage for the plant and are dried and burnt by too much of that which the others entirely lack. The roots should not be set vertically, but, at the depth of 5 inches to 6 inches, be spread out horizontally so that the young rootlets as they progress may strike outward and upward. At that depth they are beyond the reach of ordinary frost and yet are near enough to the surface to benefit early by the return of the sun during the first half of spring. Should Roses be pruned at planting time? In theory, no, in practice it is advisable to remove weak growth and to shorten growths that are unduly long, so that the wind may not play too freely upon them and by their leverage displace the roots and stem. The lower eyes in all healthy shoots must be encouraged to remain dormant until the rigours of March have passed. To cut back to them now would cause them to be the first excited in the early spring, and be damaged by frost, therefore "pruning," in its technical sense, must not be indulged in till spring.—

From Garden Illustrated.

## ROSE SOUVENIR DE CLAUDIUS PERNET

This new variety came from France with a great reputation, and flowers of it have been produced in this country which may be termed charming; these mostly from under glass. Superbly shaped, medium-sized blooms are of a soft primrose-yellow shade. Out of doors now, however, they put on a deep rich yellow hue, and with substance improved. It is undoubtedly an excellent introduction that will soon find its way among the most select. It belongs to a type known as Pernetiana, distinguished by a branching habit of growth and medium, shiny, almost mildew-proof foliage, besides prickly stems.

## ROSES FROM CUTTINGS

One is at times amused by writers on the subject of raising Roses from cuttings. They make a "mystery" of what is in reality one of the simplest of gardening operations. As a matter of fact, Roses can be propagated by means of cuttings as easily and as simply as Gooseberries or Currants. The best month in which to insert cuttings is October. The cuttings must be shoots which have borne blossoms and which are quite firm—not soft, sappy growths of the current year. If the cuttings can be detached with a heel, so much the better, but, if not, they may be cut squarely across half an inch below a joint. With a sharp spade take out a notch at the base of a wall to a depth of 8 inches, and in the bottom place a layer of sharp sand. On this place the prepared cuttings about 6 inches apart, return the soil, and tread firmly. With average luck over 90 per cent of the cuttings will form roots, and in late spring the young plants can be lifted and put in beds or lines to gain strength. I have raised hundreds—probably thousands—of Roses in this way. While I prefer, as has been said, to insert the cuttings at the base of a wall, such a site is not absolutely essential, for the cuttings will succeed equally well in a trench in the open garden. My reason for preferring the site beneath a wall is that the cuttings during winter receive a certain amount of shelter which hastens the formation of roots.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

## NEWLY-BUDDED ROSES

It is not an uncommon occurrance to find when Briars are procured for budding they are first planted together, the intention being to remove them to their respective quarters after budding has taken place. This should not be done in the autumn following the budding, as it is too much to expect them to get over the changes in so short a time and do well. In planting Briars in the first instance it is best to do so where they are wanted, and so avoid a second shift. I have seen more than one Briar where the buds had taken die off through being shifted twice in about two years.—From Gardening Illustrated, England.

## HOOF PARINGS

Whilst reading my copy of Gardening Illustrated for August 25th, I noticed a reader (K. Barrow), under the heading of "Hoof-meal," asking for particulars concerning same. I, like him, do not know where it can be obtained commercially, but I am prepared to help him with my own experience. Visit any farrier's shop or shoeing forge, and, for a few coppers, procure about a peck of hoof-trimmings. Put these into a receptacle, preferably a small tub or barrel, and add about three bucketsful of water. In about two weeks the mixture is ready. Use in a weak state, a good proportion I find being about 1 quart to a 2½-gallon can full. I have found outdoor tomatoes respond very quickly to this, also onions, celery and flowers.

JAY KAY.

# The Dec. & Jan. Gardens

## THE FLOWER GARDEN

By Mary Matthews.

December usually gives us many good days for work in the garden, though the heavy winds we had this past week were very trying both for the plants and the gardener, though the gardener had the best of it for when the wind became very boisterous he or she could retire and wait for it to lull, while the poor plants had to bear the full brunt of it. During the middle time of the day is the best time for irrigating and an ample supply of water is needed just now. While shrubs and plants are recuperating from the struggle of summer heat and drouth is when they need help. Bulbs that you should have put in last month and did not can go in, though it is doubtful if they give as good results as those planted earlier. Annuals planted from now on ought to grow if you keep the ground moist and loose.

Many choice perennials and annuals can be started along in the lath house, or failing this, in a box shaded with pieces of lath. Place the box in some protected spot where the winds cannot dry out the soil. Growing these things from seed gives a wide field for the amateur who has a reasonable amount of patience. To start right have a soil of equal parts of leaf mould, fine sand and rich earth. Fill your flats or boxes with this soil to within an inch of the top, wet it thoroughly and let it drain before planting. Most of the seeds you will want to sow will be very fine and should be sown on the surface of the soil and simply pressed down. Cover them with newspaper and then strip with lath. Never let them suffer for moisture till up, and give air once a day to keep the soil sweet. As soon as your seedlings have made two or three leaves prick them off into another flat, shift them when needed and keep them growing right along. When a seedling plant spreads its leaves beyond the space allowed, provide larger quarters. Among bedding plants the Impatiens or Zanzibar balsam sown now will make fine flowering plants for early summer. Among the newer ones are many beautiful colors, notably a sport from Olivevii of a clear sky-blue—in transplanting handle carefully as the little plants are very brittle. Soleus can be started in the same way and grown slowly along till warm weather. December is none too soon to order seeds for January and February planting, in fact some

*Continued on page 10*

## THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

The weather continues to be so absolutely unpropitious for any kind of gardening operations up to the present time, being the 12th inst., that I had about concluded there was nothing particular that could be done in the garden under present conditions, except "to grin and bear it," and try to keep plants, etc., from going back if they will not go forward. However, on looking over some previous numbers of the Garden, I happened on a former piece of mine on lawn making. Now, as there were a great many new lawn being made in San Diego at the present time and a large number of old ones in need of renovating, I will presume that those of you who happen to be interested did not see, or have forgotten the old piece.

A well kept lawn is of course one of the first essentials to a beautiful home, but owing to climatic and other conditions here, it requires constant care and attention to have a good lawn. The average soil over San Diego is rather unhospitable to the growing of grass or anything else, therefore you must manure generously and dig deeply. Use well rotted cow manure or stable manure and dig in, if possible, several weeks before laying down or seeding your lawn. This will allow the manure to properly incorporate with the soil, and also give the weeds a chance to come up. Remember that there are lots of weed seeds in both the manure and soil, ready to respond to the care you have to give a lawn, as well as the small percentage of weed seeds contained in a first-class grade of lawn grass seed. In many locations in San Diego where there is not much surface soil or where the subsoil is adobe or hardpan it will be necessary to have a surfacing of three or four inches of good "bottom" soil hauled in. Soak your ground well, and when dry enough to rake to a fine surface, sow at the rate of one pound of lawn grass to 150 square feet of surface. The proportion of seed most generally used is seventy-five per cent Kentucky Blue Grass and twenty-five per cent White Dutch Clover. This mixture will give very satisfactory results if properly taken care of. Cover seed about half an inch deep with well rotted pulverized manure or fine shavings, and sprinkle thoroughly once or twice a day, according to temperature, dry winds, etc. In other words, it being taken for granted that you have already

*Continued on page 10*

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# The California Garden

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### EDITORIALLY

This is Christmas, that season of the year when every one interprets to the rest just what Peace on Earth Goodwill to Man means, and tells us just what should be done with our funds, spare and otherwise, but though we know perfectly well how this should be, we refrain from advising you and recommend that you take your version to the Peace Committee appointed by one Bok, and win that big prize, and then give the money to the Floral Association to found a Botanical Garden; and that reminds us that we have a very interesting letter pointing out another of our shortcomings in the last issue, this time it is a matter of nomenclature and we expect the pointer is right when he suggests we need beside a proofreader and a lot of other things a botanist. Perhaps we have said it all before but we shall run that risk just to make our position clear. The California Garden exists as the organ of a Floral Association seeking to spread the love and the knowledge of the culture of flowers and gardens generally, it is much more concerned that a flower should be grown than properly classified, it deeming that this latter part belongs to an entirely different organization. It is glad to make its matter as scientifically accurate as possible, within the scope of its very limited equipment, but its job is the growing specimen not the dried example. The Floral Assoication, recognizing its limitations, is anxious to establish a library in connection with its Floral Home in Balboa Park, and has made a modest beginning, and openly solicits donations, but even should this library become fairly representative the California Garden cannot undertake to consult it on every point. We are expressing the view of the present Editor, who confesses with regret, not shame, that he never had a lesson in botany in his life and always gets mixed among pistils and anthers and stamens and beyond these is hopelessly lost. This and every other matter is a point of view, could our viewpoints undergo a periodic shuffle so yours was mine and mine yours, the world's problem would be easy of solution, that is, if a sense of humor in proper proportion could be injected. Where questions are largely personal a proper sense of humor would be a sure specific. Does any one suppose the late kaiser, William Hohenzollern, would have plunged us into that beastly war if he had had a sense of humor which would have shown him himself posing as God's specially appointed agent. Supposing he had employed Mark Twain to interview him, he would not have had to go so far, he might have read Mark Twain on the Turkish bath and then gone and taken one. Even the man with a sense of humor must remember there are all kinds of it. We were in England on a visit years ago and among our close intimates was a chap who lived to be an enormous age through his sense of humor, as a panacea for most ills he carried an unconscious tintype caricature of one of his sons, a look at which would exercise almost any kind of a devil, and yet he read the account af Dave Harums encounter with a soft-boiled egg and said he saw nothing funny in it. Look at our funny page in the daily press, now grown to eight in our local, and the person does not exist who can laugh at **all** of it, and we trust also he who could laugh at **none** is also missing. This is Christmas, and we have certain bodies going on record as believing in the miraculous birth of Christ, and others saying it is unscientific and backwoodsy, and we suppose a lot of us have constructed in our dreams, where we really live our ideals, a Christ of our own different to the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief of so much literature, we have especially at this season a Christ of Goodwill who bids little children come unto him and be happy and he is full of merriment and joy. We all have seen the artists conception of Christ calling the little children to his knee and apparently telling them of their sins and responsibilities, but the average father of little children cannot visualize that, with all reverence he would see him telling them a wonderful fairy tale with laughs many and tears but few. The story of that Egyptian Monarch is being dug up and we hope some day the world may acquire a history of Christ with the joy side of his life featured a bit. We think a lot more on this feature of Christ but keep it to ourselves for we are honestly trying for the points of view of you all and would offend none.

We cannot leave that saving grace of a sense of humor yet, having transgressed thus

far on the outside of the Garden fence we may as well go a little further. We would like to know why and how the books for study in our schools and clubs and generally are selected. Let us put the question in another way. Why have we shelved Mark Twain and Frank Stockton? The latter at any rate used a wonderful language, strictly within the meaning of literature, he is clarity itself with the last word in simplicity and his situations are as clean as his language is plain. And our only Mark, would not a study of his French Duel help any of us. Supposing we could cut out the reading of original compositions over the radio and substitute Huckleberry Finn, and revive clubs to decide which came out, The Lady or The Tiger; and that makes us reflect with sadness that half of our readers won't know either of the references and will suppose H. F. was a baseball expert and The Lady or The Tiger a Talbot Mundy story. And as we are at this digging among the musty tombs on our shelves in search of a laugh that is neither Jiggsy or Mutty, Who knows now The Houseboat on the Styx or Three Men in a Boat? But there we don't care what causes it so long as you really laugh this Christmas, but we do hope that you will manage to do so at **yourself** for that is the great cureall.

### AFTERNOON MEETING FOR DECEMBER

December 8-9 in the afternoon, a show in a small way was held of Berry-bearing shrubs and trees, also of various interesting forms of seed vessels, pods, capsules, etc. About fifty-two kinds in all were shown, among the many that excited unusual interest was a collection of eucalyptus in variety from Rosecroft Gardens, and the Pittosporum from Balboa Park. Also the Crataegus and the Cotoneasters, beautiful baskets of these were displayed by General and Mrs. Terry, who took the time and trouble to bring them over from Coronado. Mrs. Gates had a table filled with specimens in tones of gray and browns. One shrub that seems to be little known in this locality was Callacarpa purpurea, with clusters of small violet berries set closely along the stem. This specimen was exhibited through the courtesy of Conard and Jones, New Grove, Pa. In a mass this is very beautiful. Nandina domestica was there and when we see it we always say, "Why do we not grow more of it, as it does well with us and can be propagated from seeds." Miss Sessions had specimens of the Arbutus or strawberry tree, gathered while away in the north, also of Pittosporum Rhomboidifolia, which grows into a tree, has orange berries with scarlet centers, reminding one of the Bittersweet of the East. This display was better than the one given last year, and the Association hopes to encourage the planting of such things, so that in the near future we can make a really good showing, as many of the choice kinds thrive on the coast. One lack was that there was not a sprig of Berberis Barberry, and so many beautiful kinds have been introduced of late, one especially receiving favorable comment is a late introduction from China, Berberis Vernae, with panicles of salmon pink berries. Let us each try and show something entirely new next year.

MARY MATTHEWS, Secretary.

### NOVEMBER MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting for November was held in the Association building on November 20th, with about 50 or more present. This was amateur night, and those who responded gave good talks on the subjects assigned to them. Miss Mould on Dahlias, a subject on which she is an expert, and Mrs. Ryan on Mesembryanthemums, this being her pet topic, as for years she has endeavored to bring together on her grounds subjects that are ornamental and also drouth resistant, and she finds that the various Mesems always fill the bill, also that they will not let weeds thrive where they are planted. Heretofore the evening meetings have always been held at the home of some one of the members, and this meeting was in the way of a trial to see how many would find their way to the home in the park, and the result proved its success. As they begin to feel familiar with it, it is the hope of the board that mambers and their friends will feel that this is a real home, and the place for all activities connected with the Association.

MARY MATTHEWS, Secretary.

### THE FLOWER GARDEN

Received in November.

Containing timely articles on gladiolus planting and after care. The Western Florist, featuring Dahlias in a very comprehensive talk on their treatment both when growing and when dormant. Horticulture, two numbers, treating mostly of the newer shrubs that are being introduced.

A copy of the Garden Magazine for December, this is always the Pacific Coast number, contains an article on Fuchsias in San Diego, by Eloise Rohrbach; an excellent article on Iris, by Stillman Berry of Redlands, also an article, "A Chrysanthemum Show on the Pacific Coast." This show was held in Redlands Nov. 9-11, and contains excellent suggestions as regards variety, arrangement, etc., for those who contemplate growing for exhibition.

Lastly an Iris catalog from Neams, Millet & Sons, from France, listing the most worthy new and recent Iris from the best French raisers."

MARY MATTHEWS, Secretary.

**California Garden is written right out of the garden by folks who work in it.**

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

### BENARD AND ROSES

It matters not who writes this dress for Benard's up-to-the-minute rose ideas for the ideas are all his own, given by word of mouth or jotted down on bits of paper with that half inch of pencil that serves him to make labels in a script that has old English beaten to a frazzle, being just a picturesque and much more legible. Under one of his huge palms in Mission Valley he sat and talked about a two months' trip he had made this year right up to Oregon, observing roses growing, not studying them from the descriptive catalogue, the adjectival charm of which has long since distanced Baron Munchausen in the fairy tale division.

Benard has spent a long lifetime with roses in all phases, he grew up among them in France, he brought their atmosphere to America and today when those in the big rose business want a real judgement on a new variety they get his. It was quite a job to get him away from the new varieties to give the advice about planting, etc., wanted, he has done this so many years that he thinks everybody ought to know all about it now, so he had to be told that Pears' Soap after over a century of prodigious advertising decided to cut this expense in half urging that everybody knew their product and would buy it anyway, but within six months sales fell off proportionately, then he came through as follows: This is a beast of a year from a nurseryman's standpoint, so far as we are concerned we have had no rain since last March, the figures to the contrary, notwithstanding, they are only paper moisture that grows nothing but swears, and our ground, except where irrigated constantly, has no moisture at all and the worst of it is that this applies to all the ground, so that when a small patch is irrigated the surrounding dryness at once commences a powerful suction process and every root within radio call begins to go after it. A good season will show, in distinction to this a general moist condition extending down three feet and that is the first thing to be obtained where roses are to be planted, moisten the earth over the whole plot to a depth of at least two feet before doing anything else. This will take the equivalent of three inches of rain in normal soil conditions and can hardly be obtained with a sprinkler except in very sandy loose soil. When the soil is in good working condition, moist but crumbly, dig in manure freely and irrigate again, use cow manure on the light soils and horse on the heavier ones, but in no event forget the second irrigation as fertilizer uses up moisture in becoming incorporated with the soil, and the water further settles the ground and removes the dangerous air spaces made by the chunks of fertilizer. When good spading condition returns planting may be done and in another article in this issue directions are given. Bone meal sprinkled through the soil in planting assures good color and size of bloom under normal conditions.

Here Benard said, they know all the rest if they want to, here is a list of the new and newer varieties I saw blooming and I tell you I saw roses, I cannot now give you more than the names as that is all I have in my notes, I thought I would remember all about them but I don't however, I hope to get a plant or two of each. Souvenir de Verschuren, Lesley Pidgeon, Souvenir de M. Boullet, Mrs. Henry Morse, Mrs. S. D. Green, Hortulanus Budde, A. D. M. Barton, Jean C. N. Forestier, Etoile de Hollande, Noblesse, Elegante and Convent Garden. It's a shame this list cannot be elaborated but at least readers will know that these varieties have been three starred by Benard.

This is not a literary effort but seeks to be a guide to those who would plant roses and so here is Bernard's general list from what he is stocking heavily, and all of which he considers tried and proven worthy in our conditions: Reds: General McArthur, Hadley, Hoosier Beauty, Red Radiance and K. of K. Yellows: Golden Emblem, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Mrs. S. K. Ringe, Sunburst, William F. Breer, Louise Catherine Breslau, Lolita Armour. Apricot shades: Los Angeles, Madame Edouard Heriott, Padre. Pink: Mrs. Chas. Russell, Queen of Fragrance, Radiance, Rose Marie, Mrs. W. Christy Miller. Whites: Frau Karl Druschki and K. A. Victoria.

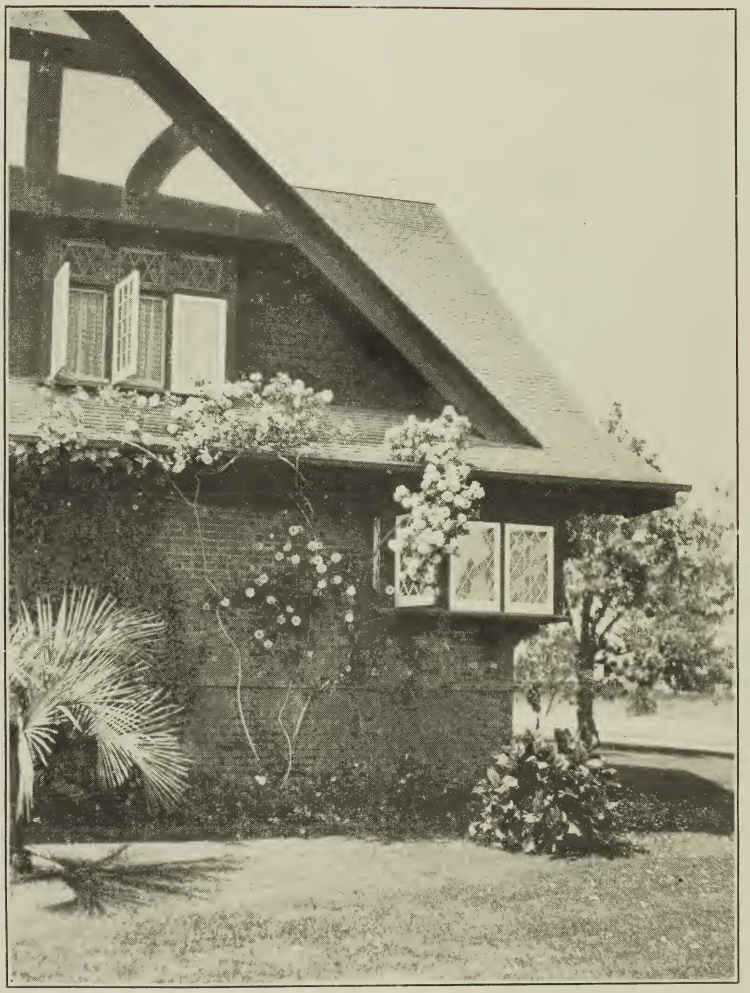
This seemed to be rather a long list for the average garden and there is nothing that causes so much hesitation as a surplus of good things to choose from, so Benard was pinned down to two more lists being his selection of the best twelve and the best six.

The best twelve: Gen. McArthur, Golden Emblem, Hoosier Beauty, Los Angeles, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Padre, Radiance and Red Radiance, Rose Marie, William F. Dreer, K. A. Victoria and Frau Karl Druschki.

The best six: General McArthur, Golden Emblem, Los Angeles, Padre, Rose Marie and either Frau Karl Druschki or K. A. Victoria.

Here also is his list of worth while climbers: Paul's Crimson Climber, Climbing Hoosier Beauty, Climbing General McArthur, Climbing Caroline Testout, Reve d'or, and Climbing Papa Gontier.

Then Benard commenced to go back into the years, he said these lists must not be taken to include all the good roses suitable here, but they are at present the most popular. If I were planting a rose garden for myself I would have to have lots of the old favorites. Lamarque, the forgotten white, and I don't think I mentioned Madame Cecile Bruner, the baby, and there is Antoine Rivoire, whom some one discovered again the other day, White Cochet, the best of the family which has taken more prizes than any other rose at our local shows, Souvenir de Stella Gray



*ROSES ON TERRY RESIDENCE*

*Coronado.*

and Mrs. Herbert Stevens, the ideal buttonhole twain and those wonderful singles, Isabel, Irish Elegance, etc. The list could be extended indennitely and I have growing here bushes of varieties I imported and never propagated, anyway I cannot grow my roses now in competition with the Northern people; why they get water at $1.50 per acre foot deep. I used to have a field full just north of the nursery every year but— Well it just cannot be done. And Bernard's is another view of the water question.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS FROM SEED

It should be sown in well drained pots or seed pans, using a compost of equal proportions of well rotted loam and leaf mould, with plenty of coarse sand added to keep it open. The pots or seed pans should be filled with crocks to within one and a half inches of the top, over these place some of the rougher parts of the prepared soil, then filling up to within half an inch of the rim of the pot, make the surface perfectly level by pressing lightly, finish off by sifting a little well decayed leaf mould through a quarter inch sieve to the depth of one-eighth of an inch, then water sufficiently to well saturate the whole, using a fine rose, and allow pots to drain for a short time. Then sow, first mixing the seed with a pinch of fine silver sand to ensure that it may be evenly distributed. Place in a temperature of 65 to 75 degrees, and cover each pan with a pane of glass, placing a sheet of paper over the whole. It is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL to success in raising Begonia Seed that the surface of the soil and seed be kept moist and heavily shaded until germination has taken place. The soil must not get dry, and as the seed is so small and so easily displaced, it is best to water by dipping the pans in tepid water to within half an inch of the top of the soil. The seedlings will appear in from ten to thirty days when they must at once be gradually exposed to light and air to prevent them from becoming drawn. Prick out an inch apart when the third leaf appears, and move on as necessary, taking care that they never get crowded. They must always be shaded from bright sunshine whilst under glass.— This is copied from the catalogue of Blackmore and Langdon, the English specialists.

## PREMIUM SEEDS

**California Garden will be prepared to offer valuable seeds as premiums with subscriptions. Begonias in assortment and Dahlia. Watch for the announcement of prize offering for blooms from this Dahlia seed in January number.**

### THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

*Continued from page 5*

wet your ground thoroughly to a good depth, sprinkle the surface enough to keep the ground damp enough to promote a steady growth. Do all sprinkling by hand until there is a fairly good sod formed, if you leave sprinkler on the ground and let it run, you are likely to wash out seed.

Do not try to weed your lawn before cutting two or three times, as most of the weeds will disappear after one or two cuttings. The present is a capital time to renovate an old lawn, more particularly as the Bermuda grass (devil grass) that greatest of pests in lawns, makes little or no growth during the winter weather, therefore a quick growing grass like white clover can get ahead of it at this time of year and make your old lawn look almost as good as new.

Go over the old lawn with a strong rake, preferably with what is known as a lawn cultivator or cutter bar rake. When used properly this will cut off all the devil grass runners and leave a fine seed bed, and at the same time will leave a great deal of the real grass sod, so that it will grow again. Now go over the ground with about one pound of white clover to every four or five hundred square feet of surface, having a few days previously applied Nulife fertilizer at the rate of one hundred pounds to twenty-five hundred square feet, raking it lightly in. Keep the ground moist and in three weeks or a month you will be delighted with the wonderful improvement in your lawn.

In the garden this weather calls for all the care possible to encourage your flowers and vegetables to live up to their reputations. If you have to water do so in the morning, and while the cold weather lasts just use enough water to keep the ground moist enough to promote growth, this applies particularly to the heavier soils.

### FLOWER GARDEN

*Con'd from Pge. 5*

of the Aster growers have some seeds in by January first for earliest bloomers. Also a good time to put in seeds of any of the sweet herbs you wish to grow. Cuttings from Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme, Sage, etc., will all take root and grow readily if put in now—as soon as your Anemones, Ranunculus, Sparaxis, etc., begin to push through the ground, keep them well watered and the soil loose. Catalogs for 1924 will soon begin to come in. Make our your orders and get your seeds early. In conclusion would like to say that I have succeeded in growing the "Texas Bluebells," mentioned some time ago in the magazine. It bloomed in just six months from seed planting, had a fine plant that was wrecked by the wind, but not before I had gathered blooms shown at the Flower Shop.

# THE EARLY BIRD AND THE ECLIPSE

This is a matter that rightly belongs to Jonathan Jacob of The Mayer lathhouse, but he won't tackle it, and already it is getting to be past history, so I have been persuaded to set down a few remarks, the chief argument being that though volumes were written before, practically nothing has been written since it happened.

Of course you all know I refer to the Eclipse that was to be so total here that it put San Diego largely on the scientific map. I have to write as the thing happened to me, for I am totally ignorant of such matters and up to this experience had relied for data on the story of how Joshua, being a shark on eclipses, had put one over on the Philistines by telling the eclipse to clipse at the moment it was good and ready to do so, and outside of the knowledge that my daily paper was filling a great deal of space with stuff I could not follow, and the report that expedition after expedition was erecting a private still guarded by soldiery at the end of Point Loma, I had little information. A week before the time scheduled for the show a son of a neighbor came purposefully to interview me, carrying a pane of glass, he wanted that glass cut up in sizes to suit the various members of his family, just like the story of the three bears, and then he would smoke it to the advertised density and by its means they would enjoy the eclipse.

Now this boy, though only ten or so, has a sense of proportion and a proper respect for my prowess in various lines, besides he has on occasions given me astounding information, add to this also that his father is a banker, or at any rate goes to a bank every day and has the reputation of being a perfect Sherlock Holmes when it comes to chasing an elusive loan overdue, and knows what is the matter with your business and mine, and can sell anything from a hay stock to a flock of sheep, and you will understand that I naturally want him to learn about this event that was due to happen to us about noon on the last day of the Flower Show.

"Toad," says I, for that is what Garden folks and his real friends call him, "how about this eclipse, what is it and how does it get that way?" "Well," he replied, "a man, whose regular meat is eclipses, told my father that it comes down from the North like a great black wall very fast in from the sea and it hits you like a blow." That was interesting if somewhat terrifying, so I asked for more. "Why the smoked glasses?" "Those are to look at the sun, you lie on your back, close one eye, if your glass is not large enough to cover both and just as the sun goes out or comes back, I don't remember which, or it may be both, you see shooting out from the moon the most wonderful colors ever." That about covers his information, but in this most truthful history I ought to record I broke his glass and several of my own into bits of the wrong size and shape before I half satisfied his specifications.

Now I was interested in the eclipse, it gave me a creepy feeling, and Toads wall grew ever blacker and blacker and more speedy, the instruments at the end of the Point ascended skywards and more scientists went about their mysterious business.

The day of the eclipse arrived, I had to go to Balboa Park after plants from the Show, but I had made up my mind that I was going to be at home to welcome that black wall, and I was, but the morning's labor was everywhere impeded by the devotees of smoked glass or photo negatives, a lot of cameras were also focussed on the sun which was weakly announcing its presence through a thick fog which shifted around enough to let out a little sunshine for a moment. Now at home I have a high tower from which I can see the sea to north and south, a necessary variation, as some folks had disputed the wall coming from the north, claiming it was hiding down south, and it gave also a sight of autos parked on every eminence, for the idea had got abroad that all these scientists with their instruments presented a sure bait for the best performance of the eclipse. An hour ahead of time I climbed that tower equipped with assorted glass and negatives and got ready to be anythinged, and I may as well confess I was completely buncoed. The fog hung on, the sun could be interviewed with the naked eye, or at least the place where he was laughing behind the fog, and literally nothing else happened, till the shutter began to close over the opaque spot, it closed slowly, the day grew dull then duller and finally dusky and then it grew light again. No wall appeared, no real darkness and a few cocks crowed derisively, and that was all. I asked scores of people afterwards what they saw, and only one had a different tale to tell, and she had gone to Grossmont, ten miles inland, and there she related that recumbent on a granite rock, gazing through her smoked glass, she saw the wonderful colored lights, the corona, as of all the territory selected and ignored, Grossmont alone had sunshine for the few important moments, but she saw no wall. There is a newspaper account of an aviator who saw the wall and fled in the opposite direction. I have been almost importuned to say that the show was impressive, I cannot, I have seen it grow much darker in the middle of the day when a thunderstorm shot the darkness with streaks of forked lightning, I have seen the sun rise and set in a glory of

color beyond words, even imagination, and the moon come up over the mountains and throw a silver path across the water, and our far heralded eclipse of the sun in 1923 left me cold, and the more I think of it the colder I get.

I have seen advertised a lecture on what the eclipse taught us, I have seen pictures of darkness with a smudge ring of light, the scientists have gone home long since with their instruments, the smoked glass has almost ceased to puncture tires, and the sun and the moon are doing business in an orderly way and I have concluded that Nature, like all good things, loves a joke once in a while.

## CONCERNING CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Mr. P. D. Barnhart's article in November issue was full of facts and pleasing, but he forgot to say that the fine Kentias growing at the Roy F. Wilcox nurseries, will grow outside in San Diego and ripen their seeds here, and is about the only place in Southern California.

The oldest palm of Kentia Fosteriana is in the Court of the Coronado Hotel. A very fine one, full of seed, at Miss Laura Baird's Adella avenue, also at Dr. M. O. Terry's garden, Seventh and A, Coronado.

Mrs. Warren Crouse has a row of six in front of her home, Maple and First. At Mr. Newkirk's residence,, southwest corner Walnut and Fifth, there is one as high as the two-story house. Also an extra fine pair at Miss Hortense Coulter's, Second and Spruce, southwest corner; also many others in the city. It is the choicest palm for culture here.

Lately Lans Bros. of Los Angeles have begun the erection of a plant on Soledad Terrace to grow these palms for eastern shipment—having purchased 10 acres of Miss K. O. Sessions' frostless land. We must watch that plant grow.

The striped grass with the long name has been growing in San Diego for some four years. Pretty striped grass with bulbous roots at ten cents each, and then he further desribes Tricholera Rosea. It has been in cultivation in San Diego for 25 years. Observe it in the Twenty-fifth street point in the park. Also on the garden slope of Mr. Harrison Sloane, on Avalon Drive. Everybody should have a patch of it in their yard. It dies down in the winter.

Gynura Aurantica has been seen in great beauty each season in the A. D. Robinson's lath house.

Lopezia rosea is here also and is more generally known as the Pink Mosquito plant. It is deserving of general culture as it is such a free winter bloomer.

Mr. Barnhart tells us about some more good things that we grow here, as well as others that we should grow.

## AVOCADO CULTURE IN CALIFORNIA SUBJECT OF NEW BULLETIN

Avocado growers will be interested in Bulletin No. 365, entitled "Avocado Culture in California," which has just been issued by the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station. The bulletin is in two parts, Part I, "History, Culture, Varieties and Marketing," by Knowles Ryerson, Assistant County Agent of Los Angeles County, and Part II, "Composition and Food Value," by M. E. Jaffa and H. Goss of the Division of Nutrition of the College of Agriculture.

The rapid growth of the avocado industry has been one of the notable developments in California horticulture during the past decade. This period has witnessed a transition in the use of the avocado from that of a dooryard curiosity to that of a fruit supporting a well established commercial industry embracing approximately a thousand acres. In order to meet the rapidly growing demand for information on avocado growing, Bulletin No. 365 has been prepared.

Among the important topics treated are climatic requirements, orchard management, planting systems, care of young trees and of mature orchards, irrigation, fertilization, and pruning. Methods of protecting against frost and of combating insect pests and diseases are outlined; some of the factors affecting the setting of satisfactory crops, such as pollination, bud selection, and rootstocks are described; and the marketing of the fruit receives extensive consideration.

The best market for California grown avocados is to be had during the winter months, and it is this market that is of particular interest to the California grower, as he already has varieties that mature at this season. With the establishment of the avocado as an important article of food rather than a luxury, an all-year-round demand will be created. Further commercial production must take this condition into account. At the present time there is sufficient variation in season among the varieties in California to furnish ripe avocados for every month of the year.

A copy of this bulletin is in the reference Library of the Floral Association Home in Balboa Park.

## WE LIKE THIS

Extract from a letter from the Jacksonville (Florida) Florists' and Gardeners' Club:

"We enjoy your "Garden" very much. We congratulate you on the fund of information that you are broadcasting."

**Why not send a subscription to California Garden for a Christmas present?. $1.00 per year.**

**California Garden is written right out of the garden by folks who work in it.**

# THE LATHHOUSE

A Series by Alfred D. Robinson.

This is being written the night of December 10th with every prospect of one of our infrequent frosty nights, the thermometer hanging in the lathhouse registered 37 at six o'clock and the barometer is high. (It got mighty cold for a few minutes when the weather man relented and changed his mind.) This at the end of three days of northwest wind which dried up everything. I have protected the north side of the house by putting up canvas and it helped immensely. I give these details neither in complaint nor derisively but because even in our perfect climate, and up to now no Fall anywhere could have improved on ours this year, occasional bad spells occur and unless recognized and provided against as far as possible may do much damage. I have put all the small things, particularly Rexes, under my glass frames to the limit of their capacity and spread some sacks over others and just as likely as not a change will happen and all these efforts prove unnecessary, in which case I can stand it.

In a score of years experience on Point Loma there has been only one real freeze that did any great damage and that was in 1913, when the coldest on record happened, and it came with the kind of wind we have been having at this time.

With lathhouse construction there is no means of fighting a freeze, especially since the authorities have determined that mere smoke does not raise temperature and the damage is not likely to be more than a mere pruning in any case.

I must now advocate a very thorough irrigating of the lathhouse, every bit of it. In a normal winter the ground would be soaked by the rains but today it is bone dry, the plants are as nearly dormant as they will get and the early varieties need moisture for their development. I advise a sprinkler, not too forceful a one, allowed to run in one place half a day, for the equivalent of at least three inches of rain should be given. Further I should not let the ground dry out from now on.

Don't prune or work the ground at present, but it is well to see that leaves that have fallen don't rest either across stems or on top of the low specimens, for this is a frequent cause of rioting.

Get some bulbs of Calchortus Albus and Amabilis, the fairy lanterns, and put them in, if they grow you will arise and call me blessed.

I have hitherto advised against using the Rexes as houseplants, but I am modifying this thought as I have specimens of Queen Victoria and Count Adrien Erdody in the house since Thanksgiving and they apparently like it. They are in redwood boxes and some distance from any window. I see no inclination to grow unduely to the light. You have my permission to try experiments along this line.

I have made up my compost heap for potting next year, it consists of leaf mould from Williams of Santa Ysabel, cow manure and a soft soil I have found on Point Loma in equal proportions with all my leaves, etc., thrown in, put up in layers of six inches in bins and the whole has been thoroughly soaked and will be kept moist right along.

The soil spoken of is over by the Gladman Cushman, and is without grit, it leaves the hand feeling as if talcumed after handling and won't bake or cake, a ball made up wet and dried in the sun crumbled easily when dry. We may not have very much soil but we have a big lot of kinds.

My experience has been that the hardiest of all the lathhouse folks to handle through our so-called winter are those in pots and boxes, and this year I am putting most of them in the ground in a small subsidary lathhouse, built of discarded chicken pens, that is under a spray system of watering. This gives them energy to grow if needed in pots next year. I expect to gradually put all the technique for the fibrous begonias out of pots, the two don't mix. This same is true of all the Pteris ferns which I have never successfully grown out of the ground.

The wistaria has shed most of its leaves and this year I am promising myself to really prune it and do it right. Before I have said how Mr. Eaton gave me a lecture on the subject and it ought to be done. First to remove all the growth that has gone outside, and all of the long runners of this year that are not wanted to fill spaces, and this means at least three-fourths of them, and make air space where required. The wistaria likes a good Sessions or savage pruning, it should be headed back almost like a climbing rose, though unlike the rose the dormant flower buds are recognizable, being enlarged ends to small shoots. If pruned considerably the flowering is evenly distributed right from and along the big limbs which throw out blossom shoots. At this time the wistaria should have plenty of water, it is at work now on its blooming period for next March, and this blooming is quite independent of the leafage and new growth.

I have planted a pink wistaria to start the other end and meet the lavender, but it made a small growth, which has been the case the first year with every wistaria I have planted, they need to get established before getting down to business.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

A great many more wistarias should be planted here, not only to screen lathhouses but outside where they will climb trees, I have had a great show with one in a Eucalypt, and more than one enthusiast hopes to see a great display near the Floral Home in the Park.

As a final word of advice, if you feel like working in your lathhouse go down town and use your energy dodging autos.

Today I have heard of the passing of Mr. Frevert, and I know of no more appropriate place to record my feeling than in this lathhouse article. Like every lathhouse devotee I feel that one of US has left, but Oh, the inspiration that place, he and his created on First street, has left behind, shall we ever have a lathhouse meeting without seeing it?

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### INDIA WANTS CATNIP LURE TO AID WAR ON CAT FAMILY

The catnip lure developed by the United States Department of Agriculture to help in trapping predatory animals of the cat kind has been heard of on the other side of the world. Evidence of this is a request from Highclerc, Kodaikanal, Madura District, India, In which the writer, after reading an article on trapping animals in an American magazine, asks for the best formula for making a lure for attracting members of the cat family, which are plentiful in his neighborhood.

The Biological Survey of the department developed this lure a number of months ago and is now using it extensively in the Western States in trapping cougars and bobcats, which prey on livestock and game. The first hint of the possible efficacy or catnip as a lure for wild animals of this family was obtained by Dr. A. K. Fisher, of the Biological Survey, at the New York Zoological Park in 1898. He carried a sprig of catnip in his hand and noticed that one of the lions seemed to take a great interest in him. He threw the catnip into the cage to the great delight of the big cat, which acted much as domestic cats do over a similar gift. He says the lion fell on the small sprig and gave evidence of great pleasure.

A number of years later catnip was used by one of the department hunters at Doctor Fisher's suggestion in trapping a bobcat. Later the department, unable to find any company which manufactured catnip oil, grew catnip and extracted the oil, getting a little over a pound to the ton of the green plants. The practice now is to mix the catnip oil with oil of petrolatum, which prevents the scent from escaping too rapidly. This combination is now used regularly by government hunters.

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### JANUARY MEETING

**The January meeting will be held at the Floral Assn. Home, Balboa Park, at 7:30 p. m. Jan. 15. Subjects to be announced through the newspapers.**

*The*

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# Native Shrubs in San Diego County Mountain District

Kate S. Williams, Santa Ysabel.

Dogwood Cornus Nuttallii is very much like the magnolia. It does not bear transplanting but can be grown from seed; likes a moist, shady place and is very beautiful in its native mountain habitat. The blossom is beautiful, shaped some like a magnolia blossom, makes a lovely cut flower. California wild cherry, Prunusllicifolia, has a leaf with prickly edges like a holly and is much used for decorations at the holiday season. The edible fruit ripens in the fall and is quite ornamental. The bark is used medicinally in bitters. The shrub is very beautiful, although difficult to domesticate. It grows best in a rocky, poor soil, but will not bear transplanting, can be best grown from seed—collected and planted in the Fall.

Cascara Segrada. An evergreen shrub with pale green leaves, downy underneath, small yellow bloom in late spring, much prized as bee feed. The bloom is followed by berries—like small plums—making a showy shrub with green, red and black fruit—all bourne at once. The bark is gathered and used as a cathartic. The berries are said to secrete a poison, so that cattle having access to the shrub during the time of fruiting become "dope" addicts, and if allowed to remain in the locality any length of time die under the effects of the poison.

Bush Poppy is Dendromecon rigidum, is a light yellow California poppy growing on a bush from three to eight feet high. The bark is greyish in color, the leaves and the flowers very ornamental. When well grown the shrub throws up long canes each summer as much as eight feet high, which droop when spring comes and are wonderful wreaths of yellow flowers. The plant prefers well drained soil.

Fremontia californica. One of our finest native shrubs with rather small thick leaves, bronze under side. Flowers a rich dark yellow petals thick and waxy. Can be best grown from seed and well worth the best attention.

The California Wild Rose is a large shrub which will form masses six to ten feet high with charming light pink flowers in summer and ornamental hips in fall and winter. Grows near water and is a grand ground cover.


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## *RALPH F. CUSHMAN*

*GROWER OF GLADIOLI*

*BOX 5-A* *Point Loma, California*

Snowberry is a lovely little shrub that grows in thickets, it is bright green in spring, with lovely white berries in winter. One of our best ground covers, and invaluable in the watersheds. Grows best in shade under large trees.

Physocarpus Capitata is a handsome shrub closely related to the spireas, grows near streams, and has great plums of white flowers in June. Honeysuckle, Lonicera hispidula makes a good ground cover, while interrupta, the chapperal honeysuckle, has fragrant yellow flowers, and bright yellow berries. Both grow in dry places and can be readily transplanted. The leaves are much used by the Indians as a poultice for bruises and cuts.

Elder Sambucus. This very valuable shrub or small tree is always found near water. In fact is the one shrub that will stand wet feet, better than most any living plant. The shrub is deciduous, bursting out in leaf the earliest of any of the mountain shrubs. Is an indicator that spring is near. The leaves are very ornamental, and the large panacles of white bloom are very lovely. The dried bloom is used in tea as a febrifuge and is a sure cure for any eye affection, applied as a poultice. The edible berries ripen during the summer months, both white and dark purple, make fine sauce and pies, and in the early days of California when fruit was unknown, these berries were much sought after as an article of diet and a relish. The elder is a very useful and beautiful shrub and should be widely planted both for shade and domestic use.

Wild Gooseberry is a thorny shrub covered in the spring with tiny pink flowers like miniature bells, followed by edible thorny fruit, which is of fine flavor, but rather difficult to manoeuver so as to get into the fruit, however, it is fine when one learns the art, how to eat the contents of the berry and avoid the thorny covering. The fruit can be used for jelly and is of fine flavor.

There are many more, very beautiful and useful shrubs. The list is long and very interesting to those who love the wildwoods and to those who care to learn of the secrets of nature. To find the native shrubs and plants one must see with eyes of understanding. The person who passes by and idly wonders what this, or that plant or shrub is, seldom finds these wonders of the woods. The lure of the hills and mountains calls to those who love the natural growing plants and shrubs. The study of these same natural growths is more than interesting, why not get busy and explore some of the hidden wonders of our own state, in plant growth as well as those of foreign lands for nowhere is nature more lavish than in our own mountains and hidden canyons. So pack your kit and shovel and trowel and hie away to the back country for now is the accepted time to dig and plant our beautiful native shrubs and plants.

## SOIL

Donald Cameron.

The first formation of soil is litchen forming on rocks, nature putting life in the mineral. The elements work on it and it is washed off, forms in layers and decays. Vegetation grows and in turn takes and gives. So therefore turf skinned off 2½ inches thick piled up green side facing with a light layer of bone meal will give the finest soil available when left to stand for a year, then chopped up. The decayed roots of the grass are just as important as the tops for the plants to grow in: Therefore a depth of turfy soil, 15 to 18 inches deep, gives a body to soil with life in it.

There is no life in soil below 8 inches to amount to anything till it is brought to the surface and vegetation grown on it. Soil requires a season of rest just like the plant, so anyone that has a little spare ground could prepare it, sow it to grass and afterwards skim and pile up as required. After taking off the turf it could be raked and sown down again for future use. So two parts stiff turfy loam with one part leaf mould, sand and a sprinkling of bone meal made firm, is the very best soil for hard or semi-hard wooded plants. Food is the invisible guide in the soil. Plants like to push their way and feed as they go along. The leading roots tap new territory and spread out feeders when they strike it rich. The minerals or chemicals are in the soil but have to be, if anything, over-balanced with decayed organic matter. Leaf mould is organic matter quickly available, but no lasting qualities; roots form very fast in it but the plant has a butterfly life.

## SAN DIEGO

One of the most interesting of California's cities, San Diego, is famous as the site of the first California mission founded by Junipero Serra, the beatuiful "Harbor of the Sun" and Balboa Park. This is one of the finest in the State, planted and ably managed by John Morley. Practically every hole made for a tree had to be blasted, and this clever gardener has made a wonderland out of a rocky waste of canyons and rough hillsides. San Diego has the most equable climate of any city in the Union. The florists and nurserymen are always ready with a welcome, and the visitor is made to feel at home at once. It is a little over 100 miles from Los Angeles over a perfect boulevard, and can also be reached by Santa Fe railroad or steamer. The Mexican border is 15 miles away, and here those so inclined can indulge in beverages prohibited on this side.

From Florists' Review.

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(See my article in this December issue. I also carry Ornamentals)

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